Report of National Forest Commission

†468. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Forest Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the date on which this report was submitted;

(c) the reasons mentioned in this report for rapid deforestation in the country; and

(d) the targets fixed by Government at present for expansion of forest cover in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of the National Forest Commission was submitted to the Government on 28.3.2006

(c) The reasons mentioned in the report for rapid deforestation are collection of fuelwood, grazing, forest fire, shifting cultivation, encroachment, mining and quarrying, faulty road construction in hills, pesticides, developmental projects and invasive species etc.

(d) The monitorable target for the expansion of forest and tree cover in the country has been fixed as to achieve 25% by 2007 & 33% by 2012.

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469. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 631 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 2006 and state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.